



Rural Municipality of Woodlands

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Twin Lakes Beach News & Updates

June 4, 2013

Flood Protection and Lake Shore Restoration Study Underway

June 30, 2013 is the Province's deadline for the temporary geotubes to be removed. Many landowners have expressed concern about the removal and have inquired about a more permanent wave breaking/flood protection option. Without the vegetation and the reduced sand dunes, many properties will be left extremely vulnerable once the temporary protection is removed. The Municipality is also aware of many landowners who are planning or currently completing individual flood protection work.

Jon Graham, of Lakefront Restorers, has proposed a more permanent flood protection and shoreline restoration project. The proposed system consists of large geotube structures (filled with sand) that are layered into the damaged shoreline. Natural vegetation would then be reintroduced on the shoreline to "underpin" the ground and minimize erosion and repeated loss of shoreline. The concept is built upon the success of the temporary geotube structures that have been installed to date and mimics natural processes on Lake Manitoba. Ultimately it is hoped that this system could restore the quality of the shoreline that residents and visitors value so highly. For more information on the proposed system, please visit: www.lakefrontrestorers.ca

As a Municipality and as landowners, it is important to assure that the decisions made about protection systems is evaluated and delivers the best possible cost-benefit. This evaluation is needed to assure you, as landowners can make decisions about the protection of your property and to provide possible funding programs the necessary information to support the project. As a result, the Municipality has committed to funding a study to review the system proposed, including:

1. *Geotechnical Review of the Lakefront Restorers protection system:*
 - a. Determine preferred positioning/installation specifications of system
 - b. Determine native vegetation planting recommendations to maximize natural environment restoration & erosion control
 - c. Determine risk factors to system success
 - d. Determine timeline & key critical paths for implementation
 - e. Determine budgetary cost for full implementation & possible phasing options including monitoring, on-going maintenance and evaluation
2. *Cost Benefit Analysis:*
 - a. Summarize costs to date associated with physical flood recovery including:
 - infrastructure replacement/repair
 - temporary flood protection
 - debris clean up & site restoration
 - interim living supports for impacted residences
 - compensation for property & assessment losses
 - property owner investments in recovery (not covered in flood programming)
 - b. Summarize impact of future flood & storm events including:

- value of assessment return (tax base) to area
 - identify value of vulnerable infrastructure
 - c. Summarize costs of installing & maintaining Lakefront Restorers protection system
3. *Identification of Funding for Implementation*
- a. Determine funding sources for implementation including:
 - government programs
 - foundation or conservation based sources
 - private sector funders & partners
 - b. Assist in application process for funding sources available

The cost of the study will be covered by the Municipality and a grant from the Red Cross Flood Recovery Program. The Municipality will be requesting an extension for the removal of the temporary geotubes pending the outcome of the study.

Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram Selected to Complete Study

The RM of Woodlands has retained Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram – Landscape Architecture & Planning (HTFC) to complete the study. HTFC has joined forces with experts in geotechnical engineering, hydrology and naturalization to complete an independent technical evaluation of the proposed system to determine the feasibility, logistics and cost-benefit implications.

The project is underway and the technical portion of the work will be completed within six weeks, after which we will engage property owners regarding the outcomes of the study and possible next steps. All stakeholders will need to consider the cost of implementation and if agreement is reached to proceed, the Municipality will assist in identifying funding options available. Questions about the study can be referred to Development Officer, Lana Cowling-Mason, at wlddsedo@mymts.net or by phone at 204-383-5679.

Hydro Relocation Discussions On-Going

Recovery Manager, Al Caron, has returned and is back to work. He has been able to ascertain that 20 of the 29 property owners are considering rebuilding or relocating the existing building and would therefore need the hydro lines to be moved. Accordingly, the RM Council is sending a formal letter to Minister Steve Ashton to have MIT and EMO reconsider their previous position on co-funding the project in light of the number of property owners now wanting to rebuild. Stay posted for further information on the hydro relocation. Al Caron can be reached at woodlandsrecovery@mymts.net

If You Need to Get A Hold of Us!

Building Permit Information:

Ken Cutts
 RM of Woodlands Building Inspector
 In Office: Wednesdays & Fridays
 Cell: 204-509-0913

Woodlands Recovery Activities:

Al Caron
 Recovery Manager
 Email: woodlandsrecovery@mymts.net
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Flood Protection Study:

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